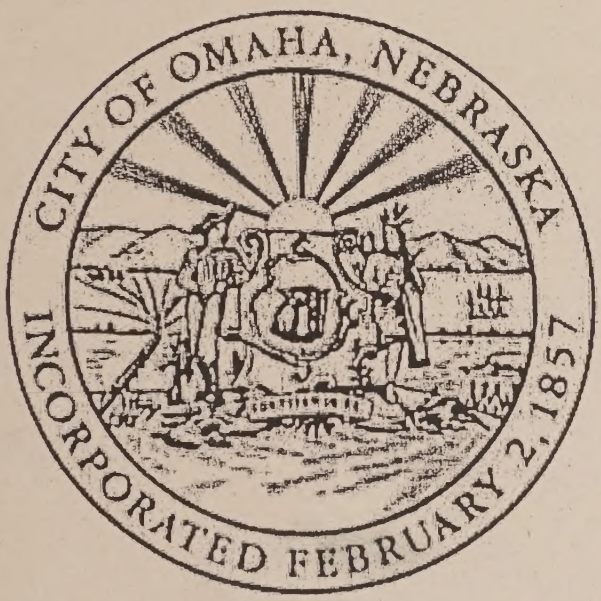
The Nebraska Numismatic Association

JOURNAL

Official publication of the Nebraska Numismatic Association

January, February, March, 2008



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The Nebraska Numismatic Association

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IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor: Drubbing the Clubs — Page 2
Nebraska Coin Clubs — Inside Back Cover

THE NEBRASKA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION JOURNAL *is the official publication of the Nebraska Numismatic Association. Views expressed are those of the editor and article authors, not necessarily those held by the NNA. Dues are $5.00 per year. Direct all questions, suggestions, articles or advertising inquiries to:*

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Nebraska Numismatic Association Journal
PO Box 6194
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SIZE	PER ISSUE	COPY DEADLINE
Full Page	$15.00	Dec. 1 for Jan. Issue
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Business Card	$2.00	Sept. 1 for Oct. Issue

From the Editor: Drubbing the Clubs

Is it January yet? Time flies when your having heart surgery. OK, it was only a catheter inserted from the groin but whew that baby stung. Remind me to change my diet.

We have several numismatic happenings to report for this freezing Winter issue of the *NNA Journal*. First, as some are aware, there is legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives to allow the reverse design of the Sacagawea dollar to be used to "celebrate the important contributions made by Indian Tribes and individual Native Americans to the development of the United States", according to House Bill H. R. 2358.

In that regard, NNA member Mitch Ernst is spearheading the effort to have an image of Nebraska's own Standing Bear be one of the first representative designs. As you recall from your Nebraska history class, Standing Bear was the Ponca chief whose eloquent plea on behalf of the rights of Native American's led to the State motto "Equality Under the Law". Mitch has been lobbying various state officials, seeking their support for selecting this important Nebraska historical figure for the new dollar. Good luck, Mitch, in a worthy cause.

Best of luck to Mitch in another area as well. Pending a vote by the NNA Board, Mitch has agreed to become the next editor of the *Nebraska Numismatic Association Journal*. While I will help Mitch from the sidelines by serving as associate editor for a few issues, I have enough personal issues in my life right now that I cannot give the organization the time it deserves to produce a timely journal for its members. Mitch has promised to continue publishing articles directly relating to Nebraska numismatics and with his computer and desktop publishing skills, I think we can expect an upgrade in quality as well as content.

Further, Mitch has suggested it is time for the NNA to have its own website and he has agreed to spearhead those efforts. Watch the *Journal* for future announcements.

In stepping down as Editor, I would encourage NNA members for a final time to re-evaluate the organization's mission and reason for existing. What is the purpose of this club? What is the purpose of this *Journal*? What is the NNA's role *vis a vis* the local coin clubs? And conversely, what role and responsibility does the local coin club have toward the NNA?

As perspective to the discussion, I offer the following grim statistics. In a state with a population of 1,768,331, the NNA currently has 61 in-state members, or about one member for every 29,000 Nebraskans. This number is probably not exact because 2008 dues are due and a few members haven't paid for 2007 yet, let alone this year. At any rate, of the 85 listed members of the NNA, the membership lives in the following areas: Omaha (20 members, 24% of membership); Lincoln (12 members, 14% of membership); the rest of Nebraska (29 members, 34%) and out of state (24 members, 28%). The other statistic of note is that there are twelve coin clubs in the state with posted meeting times (see inside back cover), or about 1 for every 147,361 residents of the state. Seems there may be some room for new members in there somewhere.

With this as a background, I now offer my personal score card for Nebraska coin clubs and their support, or lack of same, they have offered the NNA during my tenure as editor. In other words, here is how I think Nebraskans see the big picture.

First up for discussion is the Omaha region. Being the largest city by far in the state and representing almost a quarter of the NNA membership of the club, the other NNA members can ask themselves "what has Omaha done for us lately?"

The answer: not so much. In the past three years, the only contributions the *Journal* received from members living in the Omaha area came from the Ernst family. Mitch and Samuel have both contributed articles and news items, but they only have a single NNA membership so they only count as one unit in our statistics. No one else in Omaha has stepped up to the plate. No new NNA member residing in metro Omaha have been added to the NNA membership rolls in the past five years: virtually all new growth has come through the Lincoln clubs. Most coin dealers in

the city are not NNA members, including one of the largest dealers in the state. The existence of the club is rarely mentioned in any of the two club meetings in the City. All four letters of criticism received over the past 12 issues came from Omaha residents. And finally, neither Omaha coin club has co-hosted an NNA coin show in over ten years. Thank goodness for Omaha that Mitch Ernst has agreed to become editor: the NNA doesn't seem to be on the city's radar otherwise. Grade: D.

Before feeling too smug for past services rendered, the folks in Lincoln need to reanalyze their commitment to all things coin-like, as they clearly are not all on the same page.

It is no secret that the recently-formed Lincoln Numismatic Society is a protest group who splintered off last year from the Lincoln Coin Club. Tired of what they considered to be an emphasis on parliamentary procedure rather than coins, the new group has rapidly grown through an aggressive membership drive that has introduced eight to ten brand new people to the hobby in just the past few months. They have spirited meetings, an increasingly impressive on-line newsletter and volunteers lined up to give the monthly presentations.

The LNS is to be further feted, and the LCC castigated, over the switch in sponsorship of the annual NNA coin show. The NNA has in its by-laws the provision that the Lincoln Coin Club is its primary club sponsor. This meant that if no other club in the state stepped forward to co-host the show with the NNA, the LCC would do so, as it has many times in the past. After the usual ping-pong game over dates, times and co-hosts, the LCC agreed to again host the show in 2008 when no one else stepped forward.

But then in a unilateral move made without member input or discussion, one or more LCC officers apparently made the decision to cancel the commitment to co-host the NNA show in March. The NNA, always the bridesmaid, was now reduced to role of uninvited guest. This slight was particularly egregious given the fact that the Lincoln Coin Club had purchased $300 worth of high-quality vests for their members to wear at the last co-hosted show-and then charged the NNA for half the cost!!

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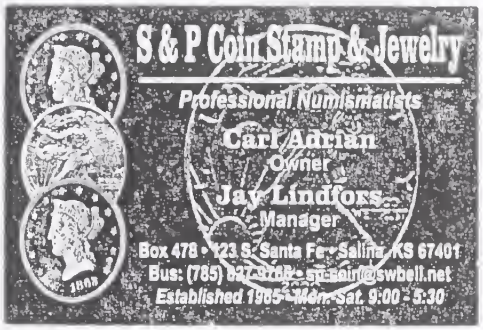

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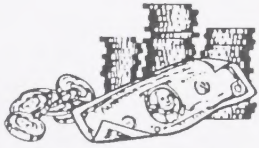

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*

Nebraska Numismatic Association
Statewide Meeting Nights

Fremont-Fremont Coin Club, 3rd Saturday, The Evangelical Free Church Social Hall, 20th & Lincoln Streets, 7:30 PM.

Grand Island-Grand Island Coin Club, 1st Monday, Blue Flame Room, Gas Company.

Lincoln-Lincoln Numismatic Society, 1st Thursday, Hampton Inn, Old Cheney Road and Highway 2, 7:30 PM.

Lincoln-Lincoln Coin Club, 2nd Thursday, Hampton Inn, Old Cheney Road and Highway 2, 7:00 PM.

Nebraska City-Nebraska City Coin Club, 3rd Tuesday in Jan., Feb., May, Sept., and Nov., Nebraska City Fire Department, 7:00 PM.

North Platte-Platte Valley Coin Club, 3rd Tuesday, NPS Co. Blue Flame Room, 215 E 5th Street, 7:30 PM.

Omaha-Omaha Coin Club, 3rd Friday, Paralyzed Veterans of America Education Center, 7612 Maple Street, 7:30 PM.

Omaha-SAC/Midwest Coin Club, 1st Tuesday, Denny's Restaurant, 84th & I-80, 7:00 PM.

Scottsbluff-Oregon Trail Coin Club, 2nd Wednesday, McDonald's Office, 511 West 27th, 7:30 PM.

South Sioux City-Siouxland Coin Club, write for information, 901 S. Cecelia, Sioux City, Iowa 51106.

Seward-Nebraska Token Collectors Club, 2nd Sunday, Cattle National Bank, 2:00 PM.

Wahoo-Wahoo Coin Club, 1st Saturday, Saunders County Historical Museum 240 N. Walnut, 8:00 PM.

(Not responsible for invalid information)

The Nebraska Numismatic Association JOURNAL
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